Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03097 100854Z ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 USIA-15 /075 W

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R 100803Z MAR 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9377 USLO PEKING

UNCLAS HONG KONG 3097

FOLLOWING MSG IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

TOFAS 56

FOR: NOVOTNY, G&F, FCA FROM: AG OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: HONG KONG WEN HUI PAO'S ESTIMATE FOR 1977 GRAIN

THE MARCH 9 EDITION OF A LOCAL COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER -- WEN HUI PAO REPORTED THAT CHINA'S GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1977 WAS "ESTIMATED" TO BE 250.0 MILLION METRIC TONS. OUTPUT FOR 1973 THROUGH 1975 WAS GIVEN AS 246.0 M.M.T., 274.9 M.M.T. AND 280.0 M.M.T. RESPECTIVELY. THESE DATA ARE CONSISTANT WITH PREVIOUS OFFICIAL CLAIMS. INTERESTINGLY, THE ARTICLE DID NOT REPORT A FIGURE FOR 1976. THERE WAS ONE INCONSISTENCY IN THE ARTICLE, NAMELY, 1949 OUTPUT WAS GIVEN AS 108.1 M.M.T. WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE SOYBEANS WHEREAS THE DATA FOR 1973-75 AND PRESUMABLY 1977 INCLUDES SOYBEANS. THE 1977 OUTTURN IS ESTIMATED AND MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT A COMMUNIST CONTROLLED PAPER IS REPORTING A SHARP DECLINE IN 1977 GRAIN OUTPUT IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT OUTPUT WAS INDEED DOWNWN, AND POSSIBLY THE DECLINE WAS FAR GREATER THAN WE ESTIMATED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN REPORT HK-8007.

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Message Attributes

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HUI PAO REPORTED THAT CHINA\'S GRAIN PRODUC TION IN 1977 WAS

TAGS: EAGR, TH
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released **US Department of State** EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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